

Book Review

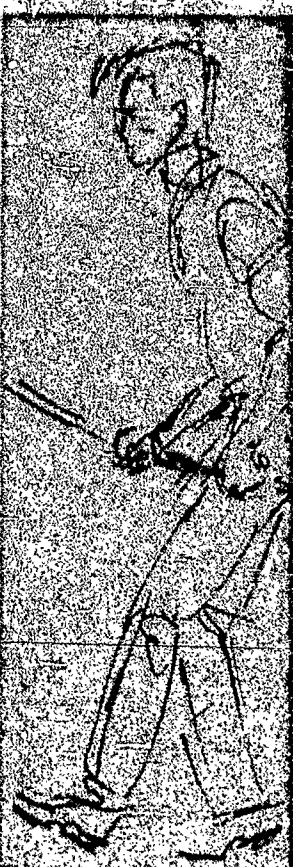
Growing Up — a War

GROWING UP ABSURD: Problems of Youth in an Organized Society by Paul Goodman. Vintage Books, New York, 1965, 288 pp.

Not long ago the police chief of Prince William County, Virginia, wrote an open letter to his local teenagers. He was tired of hearing them cry, "Where can we go?" He told them where. He said to go home, build a boat, work for the Red Cross, read a book, and take the leave.

The town, he said, didn't owe the boys recreational facilities. The boys and girls owed their energies in the fight against poverty, sickness, and loneliness. "In plain simple words, grow up, get out of your dream world, quit being a cry baby and start acting like a man or a lady."

I'm sure these rugged snap-out-of-it words ring in the ears of both generations. The older dad grumps, "That's what I told my boy last night." The boy, reverently, contritely agrees, just as he shakes his head and nods, "He's right." To the flame-throwing retreat master who rattles off the sins of



\$2 Million For \$500

Troy, Ohio — (NC) — A \$200,000 gift to a Catholic university may turn out to have been a \$2 million blooper.

At least that's the way it looks if an expert proves that a painting given to St. Edward's University in Austin, Tex., and valued by its donor at \$200,000, is really an original El Greco worth \$2 million.

"It doesn't bother me at all," commented Dolo Francis, Catholic journalist who gave the painting to the university.

Would he ask St. Edward's for perhaps half a million? "No," said Francis. "They can use the money."

In Texas, art experts have discovered the value of El Greco and other works in Greek — his native language — beneath the visible surface of the painting.

Francis bought the canvas for \$500 in Spain in 1954. It was represented to him as the work of the man who sold it.

He lent the painting to St. Edward's when he was in Austin as a editor of the Lone Star Catholic, a diocesan newspaper. Later he returned to Troy, as editor of the Daily News and left the painting at the school. He gave it permanently to St. Edward's late last year.

Diocese Plans ETV Project

Cleveland — (NC) — Educational television will be tried as a pilot project in 15 schools — 14 elementary and one high — of this diocese by the end of November.

THE TV instructions are produced by the Purdue University Midwest Program on Airborne Television Instruction. Programs are telecast from an airplane which flies in a large figure eight 23,000 feet above Indiana.

Msgr. Richard E. McElane, assistant superintendent of diocesan schools, said the use of TV instruction will give the school system experience for the time when the diocese will have its own instructional telecasts.

Schools participating in the TV instructions will pay \$1 a year per pupil, but for each school there is an annual minimum of \$200 and maximum of \$850.

Laymen Edit Diocese Paper

Victoria, B.C. — (NC) — The monthly magazine Torch has been transformed from the official publication of the Diocese of Victoria into a lay-operated "magazine of the Church and her people on Vancouver Island."

Bishop Rem J. De Roo of Victoria, in a statement in the magazine's September issue, said he is "convinced that the time is ripe to place the responsibility for the Torch in the hands of a team of laymen."

Nuns at Newman Center

Major Ridge — (NC) — An experiment now in its second year at Louisiana State University here is laying the groundwork for what may be a major innovation in Newman Club work.

Two Catholic nuns are working fulltime at Christ the King Catholic Student Center on the Louisiana State Campus, supplementing the efforts of the two priests assigned to the center.

This is the first time in this country that nuns have done fulltime work in the Newman apostolate on the campus of a secular university.

THE TWO nuns at Louisiana State are Sister Mary Peter and Sister Jane Louise. Both Sisters of St. Joseph. Both nuns hold master's degrees. Sister Peter has the title "coordinator of student affairs" and Sister Jane is "coordinator of liturgical activities."

French Stonemason Restores Old Church

Jerusalem — (RNS) — A goes along, the methods used by the Crusaders 800 years ago. He is disappointed that he has never found enough young Frenchmen anxious to learn the secrets of this medieval art, and he is very pleased that they are being transmitted now.

He is 63-year-old Henri Descamps, a widower of Ville-Pari-sis, near Paris, who spent nine years helping to restore the great Cathedral of Notre Dame, and 16 years in sounding out, inch by inch, the stones of St. Denis Abbey where the kings of France are buried. In recent years, he has been helping to rebuild war-damaged churches in northern France.

When asked to go to the Jordan to help in the restoration of the stone-carving in the Holy Sepulchre shrine, he accepted without hesitation. "The work will take about 15 years," he said. "It should just about take me the rest of my life, and in doing it I shall not be lonely any more."

M. Descamps is teaching a group of Arab masons, whose language he is learning as he

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mon sense tell them is good and satisfying. They sense the society's sexual standards are inconsistent, its entertainment is degenerate and that it chops education with low motivation — bribing a potential astronomer with grants, cash and a chance to beat the Russians rather than teaching him to love the stars.

If vocation is the way a man recognizes himself as belonging in a community's life and work, it is surprising that intelligent boys rebel?

Mr. Goodman touches all the topics — censorship, sex, theater, politics, juvenile delinquents who want to get caught, Beys and priests (he doesn't like them). He is often cantankerous and obscure. But his best made point is his demand that youth be taken seriously as an age in itself. "The burden of proof, as to who is 'wrong' does not rest with the young but always with the system of society. Some societies bear it easily; our society is not out of its mind, but it is far from adequate, and it stands the test poorly."

Young people, especially the delinquents, are struggling powerfully for life within, not away from an unacceptable world. The world can be made acceptable on a national level only by continuing the great revolutions of modern times, such as the New Deal and Progressive Education, and on a local level (here he quotes the Rochester Superintendent of Schools) by providing the discipline, the maturity and respect that come from performing real work that is highly valued and fairly paid for by an adult world.

—Raymond A. Schuch, S.J., McQuaid Jesuit High School

youth. Some boys will think through the problem and grope through the barrage of platitudes — even when advice is empty, boring and irritating. Others will mean, "Yeah, yeah," then turn around and spit as go out and break a window. Why?

In the last few years a steady flood of books and articles has tried to explain why the so-called "new," "sex-wise," "literate," "intellectual," "beat" generation is more wildly slashing its ties with traditional values, why it becomes increasingly deaf to authority, why some of the fringe groups in the adolescent sub-culture tumble with rebellion, growing up, for some reason, has become not a maturing process but a war.

One of the writers whose voice gets louder and more influential is the novelist, artist, TV critic and angry, middle-aged man of education, Paul Goodman. He writes for Commentary, Harper's and New Republic, and his answer to the problem of what is wrong with the younger generation is found in his book of essays, "Growing Up Absurd."

He says, in short, that the trouble with the youngsters is the oldesters. Youth is told to grow up, but the world we offer them is not worth growing into. Rather, it will corrupt them, quashing both their innocence and their idealism at the same time.

The standard complaint is that the young men are not being socialized, they're not getting the benefits of what their leaders have learned. Goodman suggests that there has not been a failure in socialization, but that the establishment has communicated its values and that the young have found them unacceptable — and rightly so. The Organized System of society doesn't offer worthwhile work for a growing boy to do. An average child cannot grow up because society does not want men.

True man's work makes a boy feel he's earning food and shelter.

Oppose Block On Housing

San Francisco — (NC) — The presidents of Catholic Interracial Councils in the San Francisco area have asked California voters not to sign petitions which are being circulated to block enactment of the new state fair-housing law.

Similar legislation in other states has been found effective, the C.I.C. presidents maintain. They urge Catholics to join with fellow Californians of all religions to reject the proposed referendum.



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